



# INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

*We make Indiana a cleaner, healthier place to live.*

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SIF  
Form?

May 25, 2005

Ms. Jan Pels, SE-4J  
U.S. EPA, Region V  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Ms. Pels:

Re: Metals Refining Company  
Hammond, Lake County, Indiana  
Pre-CERCLIS Screening

## MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. EPA conducted a Pre-CERCLIS Screening at the former Metals Refining Company to determine if the site warrants further investigation under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, a.k.a. Superfund).

The Metals Refining Company site is located at 1723 Summer Street, Hammond, Indiana. The site was on a list of former lead smelting facilities, that had not been investigated by U.S. EPA or local health departments that was released by William Eckel. IDEM staff located the site and collected surface soil samples from residential yards in three (3) neighborhoods in different directions from the site. Soil samples from a few yards showed lead concentrations at levels of concern. However, a background level was not determined and a pattern of declining concentrations, as would be expected with airborne lead dispersal, was not identified.

IDEM staff recommends that the site be placed into CERCLIS and further investigation should determine background levels and dispersal pattern of lead in the soil and better determine the extent of lead contamination.

Sincerely,

*Billy E. Giles*

Billy E. Giles, Geologist  
Site Investigation Section  
Office of Land Quality

BEG/sb

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



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Entered  
7/27/05

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## PRE-CERCLIS SCREENING ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST/DECISION FORM

This checklist can assist the site investigator during the Pre-CERCLIS screening. It will be used to determine whether further steps in the site investigation process are required under CERCLA. Use additional sheets, if necessary.

**Checklist Preparer:** Billy E. Giles/Geologist 4/28/2005  
(Name/Title) (Date)  
100 N. Senate Ave. P.O. Box 6015, Indianapolis, IN 46206 317-234-0345  
(Address) (Phone)  
bgiles@idem.in.gov  
(E-Mail Address)

**Site Name:** Metals Refining Co., Inc.

**Previous Names (if any):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Site Location:** 1723 Summer St.  
(Street)

Hammond, IN 46320  
(City) (St) (Zip)

**Latitude:** N 41° 36' 14.87" **Longitude:** W 087° 29' 13.28"

Complete the following checklist. If "yes" is marked, please explain below.	YES	NO
1. Does the site already appear in CERCLIS?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Is the release from products that are part of the structure of, and result in exposure within, residential buildings or businesses or community structures?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Does the site consist of a release of a naturally occurring substance in its unaltered form, or altered solely through naturally occurring processes or phenomena, from a location where it is naturally found?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Is the release into a public or private drinking water supply due to deterioration of the system through ordinary use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Is some other program actively involved with the site (i.e., another Federal, State, or Tribal program)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Are the hazardous substances potentially released at the site regulated under a statutory exclusion (i.e., petroleum, natural gas, natural gas liquids, synthetic gas usable for fuel, normal application of fertilizer, release located in a workplace, naturally occurring, or regulated by the NRC, UMTRCA, or OSHA)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. Are the hazardous substances potentially released at the site excluded by policy considerations (e.g., deferral to RCRA Corrective Action)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. Is there sufficient documentation that clearly demonstrates that there is no potential for a release that could cause adverse environmental or human health impacts (e.g., comprehensive remedial investigation equivalent data showing no release above ARARs, completed removal action, previous HRS score determined, ASTM Phase I, II etc. completed EPA approved risk assessment completed)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Please explain all "yes" answer(s), attach additional sheets if necessary:** \_\_\_\_\_

Site Determination:



Enter the site into CERCLIS. Further assessment is recommended (explain below).



The site is not recommended for placement into CERCLIS (explain below).

**DECISION/DISCUSSION/RATIONALE:** Metals Refining Inc. was one of 430 former lead smelting factories that were identified by William Eckel in a study published in the American Public Health Journal as not having previously been listed by U.S. EPA or by local health departments. IDEM was asked by U.S. EPA to assess the sites identified in Indiana. Surface soil samples taken from the yards of the nearest residences in three (3) directions from the site, showed some samples, but not a majority, with lead levels above a level of concern. However, a background level has not been established. Historical research indicated that lead smelting has occurred at the site. Sanborn maps show that Metals Refining, Inc. recycled lead at the site in 1930. Census data and aerial photography show that more than 1000 residents are located within one (1) mile of the site. It takes less than 500 hundred people subjected to Level II lead levels to get a site to score >28.5, a distinct possibility at this site.

Staff recommends the site be entered into CERCLIS and further assessment be undertaken to show that the Metals Refining site is indeed the source of lead in the yards and to determine if the number of people exposed will qualify the site for the National Priorities List.

Regional EPA Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name/Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

State Agency/Tribe: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name/Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date